



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of	)	
Jacob McGuire	)	Group Art Unit: 2152
Application No.: 09/843,766	)	Examiner: DOHM CHANKONG
Filed: April 30, 2001	)	Confirmation No.: 9191
For: TEMPLATE-BASED SYSTEM FOR	)	
AUTOMATED DEPLOYMENT AND	)	
MANAGEMENT OF NETWORK	)	
DEVICES	)	

**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated August 23, 2004, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims.

Claims 1, 3-6, 8 and 10-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102, on the grounds that they were considered to be anticipated by the Belknap et al patent (U.S. 6,516,356). The other pending claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103, as being obvious in view of the Belknap patent, considered in combination with Official Notice or the McNeely patent publication. It is respectfully submitted that the Belknap patent neither anticipates, nor otherwise suggests, the claimed subject matter.

The claimed invention is generally directed to the deployment and management of network devices, such as switches, routers, firewalls, load balancers, and the like. The claims are particularly directed to the manner in which a plurality of such devices are appropriately configured, where each device requires unique input data. For example, when configuring a plurality of firewalls, the